



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TED STILWILL, DIRECTOR

Contact: Kathi Slaughter
Iowa Dept. of Education
515/281-5651
For Immediate Release

STATE OF IOWA SEEKS QUALIFIED SPONSORS FOR SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

(DES MOINES, IOWA) – February 10, 2006 – State officials for the Bureau of Nutrition Programs and School Transportation in the Iowa Department of Education are seeking potential sponsors throughout the state to operate the Summer Food Service Program, which provides meals to children at designated sites during the summer.

Sponsors eligible to run the Program include:

- Public or private nonprofit schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or residential summer camps.
- Local, municipal, county, or state government units and public or private nonprofit colleges operating a National Youth Sports Program or Upward Bound Program.
- Private nonprofit organizations are also eligible to operate the Summer Program in areas that are not currently served by another sponsor.

The Program operates during the summer or any school vacation of at least three weeks duration in schools with a continuous School Year calendar. Meals and snacks are usually served to children in such places as churches, schools, playgrounds, camps, homeless sites, migrant areas and parks.

Rules require that at least 50 percent of the children residing in an area served by an open site, or enrolled in the site, be eligible for free or reduced price meals under National School Lunch Program guidelines.

Organizations that want more details about Summer Food Service Program site eligibility and other Program information should contact the Bureau of Nutrition Programs and School Transportation, Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; or call 515/281-4760, or visit the State website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/index.html> or the Federal USDA website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/>.

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